

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**06-05-06 Minutes**

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of June 5, 2006**  
**Approved July 10, 2006**

Present: Chairman Jack Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant, Alternate Pat deBeer, Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to allow Alt. DeBeer voting rights for this meeting.  
Motion seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

**PRIME WETLANDS STUDY**

Mark West, of West Environmental, Inc. met with the Commission at 7:30 pm. and showed an informal power point introduction presentation describing services he would be able to provide for town wide inventory mapping, town wide wetland evaluation of inventoried wetlands and Prime Wetland designation. Mr. West stated that typically what might happen with future Prime Wetland studies are:

Phase I = All wetlands over 2 acres in size would be inventoried. This will be done beginning with the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map of Fremont and then by purchasing aerial photography to upgrade and further delineate the initial inventory. Mr. West recommends purchasing and using stereo photography to increase accuracy.

Phase II = This is the most expensive and most extensive phase. He would define and evaluate all previous development data and research existing natural resource studies in Fremont. He would work with the Conservation Commission to determine the wetland functions to study extensively and then perform wetland evaluations which includes the collection of field data. He would prepare a formal wetland evaluation report describing the results of his studies.

Phase III is when new prime wetlands would be designated based on a ranking of the evaluated wetlands. Mr. West would assist the Town in sharing the information with the public and developing support for designating additional prime wetlands in Fremont by vote at Town meeting. Digitized boundaries of the newly designated prime wetlands would be prepared along with tax maps designating the new prime wetlands. A zoning amendment would need to be written to implement the new prime wetlands.

Mr. West explained that the evaluation process involves system functions, data forms and values to include wildlife habitat, groundwater, soils and groundwater recharge, production export, vegetation density and shoreline stabilization. He referred to the NH Wetlands Bureau Chapter 700 for the Prime Wetland adoption regulations. Mr. West consulted the NRI Surface Water Resource map to identify some areas to evaluate. In

answer to Chrm. Karcz questions, Mr. West stated that the typical scenario for Prime Wetland qualification is 50% hydric soils, all wetlands over 2 acres are inventoried, and wetlands smaller than 2 acres are also inventoried if there are suspected endangered species present.

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **06-05-06 Minutes**

Mr. West noted that previously found were 55 wetland complexes in town, one 50 acre complex at the south west corner of town along the Exeter River as well as eight complexes that are 15-20 acres in size.

Cost of the project was discussed and Mr. West stated that he thought it could be done for approximately \$20,000, but that was just a guess until he did the actual figures.

Mr. West agreed that he will submit to Mbr. O'Brien an outline of the work to be performed, the cost as well as timing and breakdown of the project. He offered that there are grants specifically for a Prime Wetland Study and/or phases of it.

Mbr. O'Brien reported that there is some grant funding, in the form of an \$8,000.00 50/50 matching grant, left for this type of project with the New Hampshire Estuaries Project Technical Assistance Program for the purpose of conducting wetland inventories and evaluations consistent with the prime wetlands designation process. The deadline for PRF for this grant is Friday June 16, 2006. She offered to complete and submit the RFP if the Commission made the decision.

Alt. deBeer made the motion that the Conservation Commission fund up to \$12,000 for the purpose of a town wide wetlands inventory and evaluation for potential Prime Wetland designation. Motion was seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

In answer to Commission Members questions relative to timing, Mr. West stated that when the funds are in place he would begin the project and have the first phase done within 4 or 5 months.

Mbr. O'Brien stated that she has met with the Selectmen and will meet with them again to report on the progress of this project and discuss funding.

Mr. West gave Mbr. O'Brien a disk copy of the Fremont Prime Wetland Files and agreed to obtain a copy of the NWI Map for the Commission as well.

#### **MINUTES**

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2006 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with favorable vote.

#### **GLEN OAKES**

Mbr. O'Brien reported that she has ordered the Glen Oakes sign from the NH Forest Society at a cost of under \$200.00. It will be ready by the end of July. There was a discussion relative to timing for installing the sign and it was agreed to have it done sometime before September.

There was a general conversation relative to potential Eagle Scout projects at the Glen Oakes property.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES OUTREACH COALITION (NROC)**

There was a general conversation relative to the June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> "dealing with growth" meetings presented by NROC and hosted by the Fremont Land Use Boards. Mrs. Bolduc reported that notices have

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **06-05-06 Minutes**

been published in the Carriagetowne News and Rockingham News. She added that flyers are being sent home with the children at the Ellis School tomorrow or Wednesday and will be posted and available at the Fremont Post Office, Complex, Library, Rowes Gas Station, both stores and the restaurant.

### **WETLAND/WATERSHED PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

The Commission has not received the requested additional information relative to specific information for use for wetland ordinance interpretation from Theresa Walker of RPC. Alt. deBeer stated that we may want to check the DES Chapter 700 of the NH Wetlands Bureau Administrative rules for guidelines. Mbr. O'Brien offered that Durham has good wetland guidelines.

### **BUDGET**

The Commission received and reviewed the expenditure report issued as of June 1, 2006. Mbr. O'Brien will ask Kimberly Dunbar for a copy of the Treasurers Report.

### **ERLAC**

Mbr. Sturdivant reported that ERLAC is working with NHDOT and NHDES on a sign project and are asking the town if they would like a 30"x12" or 24" x 24" sign erected at either of our 2 possible bridges and water crossings. The Members proposal was to possibly have one sign in each direction for a total of 4 signs. She reported that the total cost of each sign is \$96.00 and the local Conservation Commissions are being asked if they can contribute to the cost. The Commissions Project Fund budget line was discussed, but it was determined that that money is designated for the trail project.

There was a conversation relative to the two separate Conservation funds and they will be discussed again at the next meeting.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The Commission received a May 4, 2006 correspondence from the Planning Board relating that they are in the process of updating the CIP and inviting the Commission Members to a June 21, 2006 round-table work session relative to any anticipated capital improvements. There was also a CIP "Project Worksheet and Submission Form" to be completed and returned to the Planning Board. Chrm. Karcz explained the criteria. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission would have no capital spending projects that would fit into the required categories.

### **ERIN MICHAUD**

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Michaud subdivision project is back to the ZBA for setback issued relative to the existing house, septic and shed.

### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1 A comment sheet and public notice from the Planning Board relative to the Fred & Joyce LeClair 2 lot subdivision on Red Brook Road, Map 2 Lot 077-1. Chrm. Karcz stated it is his opinion that part of this proposed lot may be a portion of the old gravel pit. He stated that this is the third parcel to be

subdivided off of the main lot and the next time the lot is subdivided it should be required to show a plan for the remainder of the property. Mbr. O'Brien stated that she feels the landowner should show existing conditions and a future plan for the balance of the land. Chrm. Karcz wrote the consensus of the

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **06-05-06 Minutes**

Commission Members that there is “no comment on this, the third lot to be subdivided from the 49.89 acre lot. Since the 49.89 parcel remaining is a former excavation pit that borders the Exeter River, we believe the future plans for the property should be defined.”

- 2 Comment sheets and public notices from the Planning Board relative to the Shawn Senter 4 lot subdivision and lot line adjustment off Whittier Drive, Map 3 Lot 169-59-18. This was the plan that the Commission had seen and commented on when it was in front of the ZBA for a special exception for the road and they agreed that their comments made at that time remain as stated. The Commission had no comment for the lot line adjustment plan.
- 3 Notice of the October 27, 2006 State of the Estuaries conference.
- 4 Notice of the UNH Cooperative Extension 2006 Friday afternoon workshops, beginning on June 2<sup>nd</sup> running through August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 5 Exeter River Local Advisory Committee agenda and meeting notice.
- 6 A May 18, 2006 correspondence and a project request form from Ethan Hipple of Student Conservation Association (SCA) New Hampshire Parks AmeriCorps (NHCC) relative to land management projects.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 10:30 pm.

Motion seconded by Alt. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Bolduc